

ARTICLES,
86
TO BE
OBSERVED AND KEPT
BY ALL THE
MEMBERS
OF THE
Benevolent Female Society,

BEGUN DECEMBER, 7th, 1789.

And now held at the House of Mr. T. WARTON,

IN DAGGER-LANE,

KINGSTON-UPON-HULL.

H U L L:



PRINTED BY J. FERRABY, IN THE BUTCHERY.

MDCCXC.

BENEVOLENT FEMALE SOCIETY.

THIS Society is formed for the support of their members when afflicted with disorders to which the human Race are subject to, and now so numerous, that few provident people, (particularly those dependant on a livelihood from labour) but who are engaged in those valuable Institutions; and even persons in a sphere of life superior to that of the mechanic have associated therein chearfully lending assistance towards alleviating the wants, and distresses of their fellow-creatures, when rendered incapable of prosecuting their respective occupations. Every benevolent mind therefore, who sincerely delights in the good of others, will not fail to improve every opportunity to promote the happiness and comfort of those in particular who are afflicted with sickness, lameness, blindness, or any other calamity, by which they are deprived of the means and power of supporting not only themselves, but perhaps a numerous family. That this is the true and laudable intention of this Society, the following Articles will sufficiently explain, where every disorder with which any member may be afflicted, is, as far as is consistent with the general good of the whole Society, so far relieved, as at least to prevent want from coming within her doors. And we do entreat our Sisters, who become Members, strictly to observe the following RULES and ORDERS, whereby they may be thought worthy of the benefits therein-mentioned, when they are justly intitled thereto.

Let us like Sisters chearful be,
Unite in love when we each other see;
And lend our assistance when sickness crave,
There is no respect of persons in the GRAVE.

RULES AND ORDERS.

ARTICLE I.

THAT four Stewardesses shall be chosen every half Year, and that the Stewardesses business shall be to take care the following Articles be duly observed, on forfeiture of One Shilling, or be excluded. They shall serve in their office six months, and new ones shall be chosen in their stead, in the months of *May* and *November*; and shall declare the night they are chosen whether they will stand or not, or forfeit One Shilling each; and the Stewardesses going out of office, shall see that the new ones be chosen by rotation, and those who refuse to serve, shall forfeit Two Shillings, and others chosen in their stead. Those who become Stewardesses shall keep a just account of all the money received and paid, in their half year's servitude, or forfeit Two Shillings and Six-pence. If any money fall short, either by fraud or embezzlement, they shall make up the deficiency, or be excluded.

Stewardesses to be chosen.
Time when chosen.
Fines.
By rotation.
Fine.
For deficiency

II.

THAT a Box shall be provided with three Locks and three Keys, two for the senior Stewardesses, and the third for the Person with whom the Box is entrusted,

Cash deposited in a chest.

trusted, in which the money and other effects belonging to the Society shall be deposited; but if any of them lose their keys they shall provide others, or be excluded.

III.

Security given

THAT the person with whom the box and money is entrusted, shall give security for the same, and the bond shall be kept by such persons as the Society shall think proper, but not by a member, nor in the box, but shall be delivered up to the Clerk and Stewardesses upon demand, in presence of the Society.

IV.

When the feast is to be held.

Contributions towards the Feast.

Pay to the Minister, &c.

Tables to have an equal number.

THAT a Feast shall be held on the third Wednesday in *June*, in the year 1791, and so forwards; and every member to pay on the meeting night before the Feast, One Shilling towards the Feast, and Two-pence to the servants, or forfeit One Shilling. There shall be took out of the Stock, One Shilling for each member to spend, and Ten Shillings and Six-pence to the Minister for preaching a Sermon, and Two Shillings and Six-pence for the Loft, &c. and all members within five miles shall go to Church or Chapel, and be ready to answer their call at half past nine o'clock, or forfeit One Shilling. The members are desired to be in the club-room at half past twelve o'clock, as the dinner will be on the table at one; and dine on three tables, each table to have an equal number of members; the Stewardesses to be divided to each table, to see that these Articles be

be punctually observed. No business to be done on the Feast-day on any account.

V.

IF any member shall cause a quarrel or disturbance on the Feast-day, she shall forfeit One Shilling, or be excluded. The half year nights are in *June* and *December*, when each member shall pay to the Clerk of this Society, Three-pence for his salary, or forfeit Six-pence, and at the same time clear off all that is due to the box, or be excluded.

Fines for quarrelling.

VI.

THAT a Register Book shall be kept, wherein shall be inserted the name of every member, with her age, and her Husband's trade and place of abode, which she shall give the Clerk an account of, at the time of her entrance; likewise when she removes to another habitation, she shall give notice of it the next club-night to the Clerk, or forfeit Six-pence.

Register book.

When they remove.

VII.

THAT the number of members shall not be limited, nor the club removed from the aforesaid house without just cause. That the times of their meeting shall be on the first Tuesday in every calendar month, and continue from seven 'till nine o'clock in the evening, in which time each member shall spend Two-pence, and put One Shilling into the box; to be collected by the Stewardesses, for the relief of those who may become sick, lame, or blind, and all the Two-pences to be spent each meeting night.

Meetings when held.

VIII.

VIII.

Time of of-
ficers attend-
ing.
Contributions
to the Box.

Forfeits for
ill behaviour.

Box not to be
opened.

Admittance
of Members.

ON every monthly meeting night, the Clerk and Stewardesses must attend in the club-room at seven o'clock, and remain until the business of the night be done, when each member shall pay all contributions due to the box, between the hours of seven and nine o'clock; but if the business of the night cannot be finished within the hours, the members shall still maintain due decorum; and whoever refuses to keep silence or retire to their seats, or shall behave indecently, or affront the Stewardesses or Clerk, whilst transacting the Society's affairs, after silence is called, shall for each offence forfeit Six-pence, and should any member crowd about the table, whilst the Clerk and Stewardesses are transacting the Society's affairs, shall forfeit Six-pence. The Clerk and Stewardesses shall attend in the club-room at seven o'clock, and should any of the Stewardesses be sick, or neglect sending their key at seven o'clock, shall forfeit Six-pence, and must always attend, unless there be some reasonable cause, and then must employ one to act in their stead, and the box not to be opened but in the presence of the Society.

IX.

NONE to be admitted a member of this Society above ⁴⁵ years of age; and should any person be disputed, she shall procure a baptism register. Neither shall any person be admitted that hath any infirmity, or natural distemper on her at spring or fall; and should any person obtain admission, and
it

it be proved that she had an infirmity at the time of her entrance, and request any benefit for the same, she shall be excluded, and all her money forfeited to the box. Any person who means to become a member of this Society, shall come to the club-room, and give her name, her age, and her husband's trade and place of abode, and then withdraw into another room, whilst the Clerk asks the necessary questions, previous to her admission; and if any one of the Society shews just cause why she may not be admitted, that member who shall divulge to such person, who it was that made the objection, shall forfeit Five Shillings, or be excluded; and each person shall have the Articles of admission read over to them by the Clerk, or she shall forfeit One Shilling.

Imposters to be excluded.

Place of abode

Articles to be read over.

X.

EACH person to pay at her entrance Two Shillings and Two-pence, and shall continue one year before she receives any benefit from the Society; and each member shall continue to pay One Shilling to the box, and Two-pence to be spent every calendar month, and shall come or send to pay off all contributions and fines, once in three months, or forfeit One Shilling, and should any member neglect four months, she shall be excluded. And this to continue so long as three will hold the same.

To pay at her entrance
2s. 6d.

All contributions to be paid.

XI.

THAT none shall be admitted members of this Society, but such as are of good, sober, and discreet

None but sober discreet women to be admitted.

discreet behaviour. Should any one be proved to the contrary, she shall be excluded, and her money forfeited to the Box.

XII.

Allowance of
7 s. *per* week.

Benefits not to
be allowed.

Fines for not
sending a pro-
per note to the
Clerk.

Fines for neg-
lect of Stew-
ardesses.

THAT when any member shall become sick, lame, or blind, and thereby rendered incapable of doing the housewifery, shall be allowed Seven Shillings *per* week, and shall have her allowance every week, but no odd days to be paid for, and nothing shall be allowed to those members who may be troubled with the breeding-sickness, nor lying-in women. But should any member be not able to do her work at the expiration of the month, she shall be allow'd the weekly benefit of Five Shillings *per* week; but she must send a note to the Clerk, to acquaint him of her sickness, and a punctual direction where she lives, that the Stewardess may not be put about to find her; should any neglect this, they shall be fined Six-pence; and should the Stewardesses neglect their duty, after they have had notice given them by the Clerk, of the sickness of any member, they shall pay Two Shillings and Six-pence for each neglect, or be excluded.

XIII.

Stewardess to
visit the Sick.

Members to
go with the
Stewardess
by rotation, or
pay Six-pence.

THE Stewardesses shall visit the sick as follows, *viz.* the senior Stewardess shall have the first three days, and the assistants the next, and a proper Roll by rotation shall be made, and delivered to the Stewardess, of all the members names, and place of abode; that one shall go every day along with her, to visit

visit the sick by rotation, and those who refuse to take their turn shall pay Six-pence Fine, when warned by the Stewardests whose turn it is to visit the Sick, as the Stewardests shall warn them by rotation as they stand on the list.

XIV.

THAT if any member of this Society knows of any impostor receiving the benefit from this Society, she shall disclose it the first meeting night, or forfeit Five Shillings, and the member giving such information, upon due proof being made, shall be allowed Five Shillings out of the joint-stock, and the said impostor shall forfeit Five Shillings, or be excluded.

Impostors receiving benefit.

XV.

THAT should any member of this Society cause any quarrel, and thereby receive any hurt, she shall not receive any benefit from this Society during her illness, if she does, and it be proved, she shall be excluded, and the same for any that claims benefit for the Venereal Disease.

Benefits not to be allowed.

XVI.

THAT if any member should upbraid or degrade another, for receiving the benefit of the box, she being justly intitled thereto, shall forfeit Five Shillings, or be excluded.

XVII.

SHOULD any member of this Society cause any reflections to be cast on another, respecting their calling or abilities, when in the club-room, such

Fines for reflections.

B

person

Members endeavouring to break up this Society, their Fine.

person who gave the affront, shall forfeit Six-pence. And should any member contrive or speak of breaking, dividing, or sharing the money in the box, or joint-stock, not only she who proposed it, but likewise all that enter into such combination, shall forfeit Ten Shillings each.

XVIII.

Fines for bringing in Strangers.

THAT if any member brings a stranger into the club-room without leave of all the Stewardesses, she shall forfeit Three-pence ; if they obtain leave and such stranger causes any quarrels, or swears, or calls any member in the club-room, those who brought them shall be answerable for all Fines they may be subject to. No stranger to be permitted to stay in the club-room that brings pay for another, no longer than they have paid the money, nor neither shall any person dine on the Feast-day in the room of an absent member.

XIX.

Members may remove to any part of Great-Britain.

THAT if any member of this Society shall think proper with a view of obtaining a better livelihood, to remove into any other part of Great-Britain, upon making their payments as usual, the aforesaid allowance in case of sickness, lameness, or blindness, shall be punctually remitted them on sending a Certificate, (as in the appendix) setting forth her disorder, signed by the Doctor, Minister, and Churchwardens of the Parish where she resides, which certificate must be renewed every month during her illness, and the allowance as in the 20th Article in case

case of death, shall be paid to her husband or executors, upon their sending a certificate as above.

XX.

THE four Stewardesses and Clerk shall attend the Funeral, and the Stewardesses shall each of them

Members to attend Funerals.

have a hood, scarf, and gloves, at the expence of the Society, and to meet in the club-room at the time they have notice given them by the Clerk so to do, when one of the Stewardesses assistant shall go to the house where the deceased Sister's corpse is, and bring notice to the Stewardesses the time they are to attend their Sister's corpse to the grave, and then return back before her husband, or executors, and then to the club-room, where they shall be allowed to expend One Shilling and Six-pence, and shall have power to open the box and pay the Seven Guineas. Every Stewardess or Clerk that doth not attend at the appointed time, shall forfeit Two Shillings; but if any of them be sick, or one mile from home when invited, then this Fine to be excused; and the Stewardess who served the last half year shall attend, or be fined Two Shillings. Every member who doth not attend shall contribute One Shilling to the box at the death of every free member, or member's husband, and must be paid the next meeting night after the Stewardesses give notice so to do. Every free Sister at the death of her first lawful husband shall receive Ten Guineas, and at the death of her second shall receive but nothing for the third. A certificate of the member's

To be paid at the death of a Member.

Members to receive at the death of their husbands.

Allowance
for unfree
Members.

member's marriage to be produced if required.—Any member dying before she has been one year in the Society, shall receive Thirty Shillings, each member to subscribe Six-pence, and all the overplus money to go into the box.

XXI.

Suicide, &c.

THAT should any member of this Society, lay violent hands on herself, after she is free of the box, if she leaves a husband, or children, they shall be allowed 7 = 7 = 0 but no other person shall be intitled to it, neither shall her funeral be attended as above; and if any member be convicted of felony, she shall be for ever excluded.

XXII.

Decent interment.

Pall to be provided by the Society.

Clerk to be acquainted.

THAT when any member of this Society who is intitled to the benefits die, and leaves a husband, he may have a coach and hearse, as also any who may have power to receive the same; and as the allowance is properly meant for a decent interment, should any fault be found, the Stewardesses shall have power to order it to be amended, and a Pall shall be provided at the Society's expence. And it is expected that every Sister when it may please God to call her from this transitory life, that she shall have a psalm sung before her to Church, and in the Church; if they die within one mile of the town of *Kingston-upon-Hull*, the husband, or executors, must send word to the Clerk acquainting him when she died, and where she is to be buried, and he shall acquaint the Stewardesses, or forfeit Two Shillings and Six-pence.

XXIII.

XXIII.

IF any thing should appear disagreeable to any member of this Society, she shall lay her grievance before the Clerk and Stewardesses in writing, which shall be read over by the Clerk at eight o'clock be given in that evening, if it come before, if not, it must be read the next meeting night. But should such member speak of any thing relating grievance in the club-room, she shall forfeit Two Shillings and Six-pence.

XXIV.

WHEN any affair shall happen relating to this Society, that cannot be clearly and absolutely determined by the rules here specified, the dispute shall be determined by a majority of all the members present, and their resolutions shall be binding to all other absent members. Should any make an objection after it is read over by the Clerk, such person shall be fined Two Shillings and Six-pence. And that none may plead ignorance of the Articles and Rules of this Society, every member shall have one of these Pamphlets delivered to her, by paying Six-pence to the stock for it.

Disputable
points to be
settled.

Every mem-
ber to have an
Article.

XXV.

THAT if at any time the Stock of this Society, should be reduced to Ten Pounds,, the next club night each member shall contribute Two Shillings and Six-pence towards augmenting the same, or be excluded.

Contributions
when the stock
is 10 l.

XXVI.

THAT if at any time of monthly meetings there should be more liquor than every member's Two-pence, it shall be made good by the Stewardesses, if they neglect giving each member their ticket, as they pay their monthly contribution, as there shall be always tickets ready for each member, or the Clerk for neglecting the same, shall forfeit Six-pence; and should any member call for more after she has had her share, she must pay for it herself.

Stewardesses
accountable
for liquor.

XXVII.

IF any thing should be thought of, that may be of more satisfaction or welfare to this Society, it shall be inserted in a bye-law book, which shall be provided for the purpose of copying such resolutions and bye-laws, as this Society may hereafter think proper to make; which resolutions shall be binding to every member of this Society, as much as the original Articles, providing that twenty-five members be present at the time of their being made, and shall be read over by the Clerk the next monthly meeting, that no member may pretend ignorance of the same.

XXVIII.

XXVIII.

Committee to
be chosen.

Should any affair shall happen that cannot be clearly determined by any of these Articles, then a Committee shall be chosen by the Stewardesses of free members, and such as may be thought proper for the matter in dispute, and the first chosen person to have the matter in dispute laid before her, when they shall withdraw into a private room, where the majority of them shall decide the same candidly and impartially, then return to the Society, when the first chosen person on the Committee shall give the Stewardesses a proper determination of the matter in writing, if needful, which shall be read. But no dispute shall ever be decided by a Committee but on meeting night, except it be of such a nature as to require more time than can be done within club-hours. Any member refusing to act upon such an occasion when duly chosen, shall forfeit Two Shillings, and another chosen in her stead.

XXIX.

If any member should become Sick, Lame, or Blind, and thereby requests the benefit of this Society, they must be very careful in complying with those Articles, as no member shall do any sort of work, only giving breast to a child, or verbal orders to servants, or sign a receipt, or other writings; should any member be found doing contrary to this Article, she shall be fined as the Society may think proper, and on refusal of this Fine, they shall be excluded.

XXX.

Should any member of this Society become Blind, such member shall have Three Shillings *per* week, so long as their Blindness continues. And if any member be confined for debt, she shall have such weekly allowance as the Society may think proper, but not to exceed Two Shillings *per* week,

XXXI.

That when a member hath laid upon the box one whole year, then her allowance shall be reduced to Two Shillings and Six-pence *per* week; but if her disorder be such as to render her a fit object for her full weekly pay of Seven Shillings, then it shall be left to the discretion of the Society, whether to allow it her or not. And should any member live to the age of Seventy years, then such weekly allowance shall be granted as the Society may think proper, not to exceed Two Shillings *per* week on any account.

HANNAH

HANNAH BENTLEY, Mother.

CATHARINE MOODY, }
MARTHA JOBLIN, } Stewardesses.

SARAH LATIMOOR, }
JANE HEDGILL, } Assistants.

JOHN ROBINSON, Clerk.

The A P P E N D I X.

*The form of a Letter from a Member in the Country, in case of
Sickness or Lameness, requiring Benefit from this Society.*

To the Clerk of the BENEVOLENT FEMALE SOCIETY.

WE the Minister and Church-Wardens of the Parish of _____
in the County of _____ do hereby certify, that *A. B.* a
member of your Society, (*here mention the Disorder*) and who re-
quests the weekly Benefit of Seven Shillings, as in the 12th Ar-
ticle she is justly intitled to the same, on Account of her present
indisposition.

Witness our hands this _____ day of _____ 17

Minister.

} Church-Wardens,
Doctor.

The

The Form of a Certificate to be sent by a Member's Husband residing in the Country.

THIS is to Certify the Stewardesses and the Members of the BENEVOLENT FEMALE SOCIETY, at HULL, that *A. B.* the wife of *J. B.* in the County of _____ being a Member of your Society, died the _____ Day of _____ 17 and was buried the _____ day of _____ at the Church of _____.

As witness our hands this _____ day of _____ 17

} Minister.
Clerk.

The Form of a Certificate to be sent by a Member of the Benevolent Female Society, at the Death of her Husband.

THIS is to Certify the Stewardesses and Members of the BENEVOLENT SOCIETY, that *J. B.* the Husband of *A. B.* in the County of _____ being a Member of the said Society, died the _____ day of _____ 17 and was buried the _____ day of _____ at the Church of _____.

As witness our hands this _____ day of _____ 17

} Minister,
Clerk.



N. B. All letters to the Society must be Post-paid, and directed for the Clerk of the BENEVOLENT FEMALE SOCIETY, at Mr. THO. WARTON's, DAGGER-LANE, KINGSTON-UPON-HULL.

he
he
ur
he

ent

E-
the

the

lob

ibat

ted

Mr.

